

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
NORTHERN DIVISION

MICHAEL GRESHAM,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 2:09-cv-231
HON. R ALLAN EDGAR

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM, et al.,

Defendants.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Plaintiff prisoner Michael Gresham filed two motions for injunctive relief, temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and appointment of counsel (Docket ## 222, 225), and a separate motion for appointment of counsel (Docket #223). Plaintiff requests that the court order defendants to provide him with five duffle bags filled with his property, one television, and one pair of glasses. At the time of the motion, plaintiff claims that the bags were located at Marquette Branch Prison. At this time, the bags have been moved to plaintiff's current location at the Macomb Correctional Facility in New Haven, Michigan. Plaintiff is currently in an intensive structured mental health program and has access to one state issued duffle bag. His other property is currently in the property housing room at the facility. Once plaintiff completes this program he will receive his property as allowed by the security level of his new housing assignment. A similar request for injunctive relief has already been denied by this court. I have reviewed plaintiff's request for injunctive relief and conclude that the request lacks merit on the grounds presented as it fails to

establish a substantial likelihood of success on the merits and does not establish that plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm if the requested relief is not granted.

The issuance of preliminary injunctive relief is committed to the discretion of the district court. *Planned Parenthood Association v. City of Cincinnati*, 822 F.2d 1390, 1393 (6th Cir. 1987). In exercising that discretion, the court must consider and balance four factors:

1. Whether the movant has shown a strong or substantial likelihood or probability of success on the merits.
2. Whether the movant has shown irreparable injury.
3. Whether the preliminary injunction could harm third parties.
4. Whether the public interest would be served by issuing a preliminary injunction.

Washington v. Reno, 35 F.3d 1093 (6th Cir. 1994). These factors are not prerequisites to the grant or denial of injunctive relief, but factors that must be carefully balanced by the district court in exercising its equitable powers. *Id.*

Moreover, where a prison inmate seeks an order enjoining state prison officials, this Court is required to proceed with the utmost care and must recognize the unique nature of the prison setting. *See Kendrick v. Bland*, 740 F.2d 432 at 438, n.3, (6th Cir. 1984). *See also Harris v. Wilters*, 596 F.2d 678 (5th Cir. 1979). It has also been remarked that a party seeking injunctive relief bears a heavy burden of establishing that the extraordinary and drastic remedy sought is appropriate under the circumstances. *See Checker Motors Corp. v. Chrysler Corp.*, 405 F.2d 319 (2d Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 394 U.S. 999 (1969). *See also O'Lone v. Estate of Shabazz*, 482 U.S. 342 (1986).

Plaintiff's "initial burden" in demonstrating entitlement to preliminary injunctive relief is a showing of a strong or substantial likelihood of success on the merits of his Section 1983

action. *NAACP v. City of Mansfield, Ohio*, 866 F.2d 162, 167 (6th Cir. 1989). A review of the materials of record fails to establish a substantial likelihood of success with respect to plaintiff's claim that the defendants have violated his federal rights. Moreover, plaintiff's request for injunctive relief have nothing to do with his underlying action for assault and rape. Furthermore, plaintiff has failed to establish that he will suffer irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.

Finally, in the context of a motion impacting on matters of prison administration, the interests of identifiable third parties and the public at large weigh against the granting of an injunction. Any interference by the federal courts in the administration of state prison matters is necessarily disruptive. The public welfare therefore militates against the issuance of extraordinary relief in the prison context, absent a sufficient showing of a violation of constitutional rights. *See Glover v. Johnson*, 855 F.2d 277, 286-87 (6th Cir. 1988). That showing has not been made here. Because plaintiff has failed to meet the heavy burden establishing the need for injunctive relief, I recommend that plaintiff's motions for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction be denied.

Plaintiff has also made multiple requests for appointment of an attorney. The court has denied these requests previously. Plaintiff has not shown that he is incapable of representing himself in this action. Plaintiff's requests for appointment of counsel should be denied.

Accordingly, it is recommended that plaintiff's motions (Docket ##222, 223 and 225) be denied.

NOTICE TO PARTIES: Objections to this Report and Recommendation must be served on opposing parties and filed with the Clerk of the Court within fourteen (14) days of receipt of this Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); W.D. Mich.

LCivR 72.3(b). Failure to file timely objections constitutes a waiver of any further right to appeal.

United States v. Walters, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981). *See also Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985).

/s/ Timothy P. Greeley

TIMOTHY P. GREELEY

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Dated: November 14, 2012